

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 – 5, 14 –18, 20, 25 – 27, and 29 –31.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. – 20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) A method of preventing lymphocyte activation which comprises the steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein; and

contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to prevent activation.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.

24.– 31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting lymphocyte activation which comprises the steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein; and

contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to inhibit activation;

wherein cytokine production and secretion by immunoglobulin activation of lymphocyte cells is inhibited.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.